



Coss 1-1-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s): Michael John Coss
David L. Majette
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Case: 1-1-1
Serial No.: 08/927,382
Filing Date: September 12, 1997
Group: 2787
Examiner: Robert Crockett

Title: Methods and Apparatus for a Computer Network Firewall with Multiple Domain Support

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited on this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Signature: Leresa M. Hanlin Date: April 27, 2000

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RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the outstanding final Office Action dated December 27, 1999, applicants submit the following remarks.

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 12, 1997 with claims 1-26. In an Office Action dated August 18, 1999, the Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,606,668 to Shwed (Shwed). Applicants traversed these rejections in a Response dated November 12, 1999. In the outstanding final Office Action dated December 27, 1999, the Examiner has reasserted the same rejections as in the previous Office Action and indicated that applicants' arguments were not persuasive.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Crockett for extending the courtesy of a telephone conference with applicants' attorney, Mr. William Lewis, on March 27, 2000. The pending claims 1-26 were discussed, as well as the Shwed reference on which the rejections are based. In the telephone conference, Examiner Crockett asserted that Shwed discloses rules with "multiple